

COURT MINUTES OF FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

RYTIS TERESKO and EDITA TERESKO,

v. CASE NO. 22-CV-1532-JPS

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
and BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ILLINOIS,

v.

THE 3M COMPANY.

HON. J. P. STADTMUELLER PRESIDING

DATE: August 6, 2024 TIME SCHEDULED: 8:30 a.m.

COURT DEPUTY/CLERK: Annie Stanford TIME CALLED: 8:29 a.m.

COURT REPORTER: Jennifer Stake TIME FINISHED: 9:35 a.m.

PLAINTIFFS BY: Timothy Trecek, Jesse Blocher, Elissa Bowlin

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY BY: Tamera DeGroot

DEFENDANT BY: Gerardo Alcazar, Andrew Crowder, Zandra Foley, Steven Augustine, Jaime Wing,
Evan Thomsen

Notes:

- 8:29: Appearances; Court puts background of case on record
- 8:30: Plaintiffs state there is a very strong likelihood of trial; parties will have no trouble completing trial in two weeks; Plaintiffs inquire as to day-to-day trial schedule
- 8:31: Court describes jury selection process; Court describes peremptory strike process; Court explains day-to-day trial schedule; Court discusses process of disclosing witnesses and exhibits for each day on the day prior
- 8:40: Court discusses exhibit list with 3M's objections, ECF No. 74; Court instructs parties to meet and confer on the same; Court discusses preparation for trial and case calendars; Court states that remaining issues on motions *in limine* will be addressed as they come up in trial; Court discusses remaining issues on jury instructions and verdict form

- 8:47: Court inquires as to role of additional counsel for 3M; 3M responds; Court references original pretrial order, ECF No. 5; Court states that all counsel who will actually try the case need to sign the pretrial report; Court inquires as to whether Liberty Mutual will appear at the trial; Liberty Mutual responds; Court instructs counsel for Liberty Mutual to sign off on pretrial report as well if present for trial
- 8:50: Court inquires as to Blue Cross status; Plaintiffs respond
- 8:51: Court states that it will enter an Order later this week sealing the case; explains basis therefor
- 8:55: Court discusses process for direct and cross examination of witnesses
- 8:57: Court states that exhibits that are formally received must be moved into evidence at the appropriate time
- 8:59: Plaintiffs inquire as to handing witnesses exhibits; Court responds
- 9:00: Plaintiffs raise stipulation as to medical expenses; 3M has agreed to have Rule 30(b)(6) witness available early in trial; inquires as to seating for voir dire
- 9:00: Court states that if parties agree, there is no problem with calling witnesses out of order; Court responds as to seating for voir dire; Plaintiffs ask follow-up question; Court responds; Plaintiffs ask follow-up question; Court responds
- 9:06: Plaintiffs inquire as to bringing in additional screens; Court responds
- 9:09: Plaintiffs inquire as to where technology paralegal can sit; Court responds
- 9:12: Plaintiffs inquire as to room in courthouse where parties can work; Court responds
- 9:13: Plaintiffs inquire as to entering exhibits into evidence for demonstrative purposes only; Court explains Court's general rule
- 9:19: Plaintiffs inquire as to rule about whether items go back to the jury room; Court responds
- 9:20: Court explains jury instruction process
- 9:23: Plaintiffs inquire as to expert testimony; Court responds
- 9:25: 3M inquires as to process for calling Rule 30(b)(6) witness; Court responds; 3M makes clarifying statement as to same; 3M addresses exhibit objections filed at ECF No. 74; Court responds
- 9:28: Court states that it has two criminal jury trials starting September 3; once the jury gets this case, jurors are free to deliberate as long as they need to reach the verdict; if case is not to the jury by August 30, Court must declare a mistrial
- 9:32: Court instructs parties to contact Clerk with any further questions; if case reaches settlement on Thursday before trial begins, parties are obliged to split the cost of the jury panel
- 9:33: 3M will follow up with Clerk regarding conference room space; 3M inquires as to whether Court needs copies of witness notebooks; Court responds; 3M inquires as to bench discussions; Court responds
- 9:35: Court stands in recess